

INTO A TOILET BANK

N 60 DAY  
LETS \$  
AJ'

\$



Aime Lalonde is starting a business selling water-saving toilet hardware.

## Loan Fund helping great small business ideas start up

Aime Lalonde wants to reduce your flush, and make money doing it. He's selling a toilet water saving device and he knows he has a great product. Several large apartment building owners have contacted him about saving tons of water, and big chunks of their utility bills, with his toilet water saver.

Lalonde got together with Tony Sulit and his new invention, the Flush Miser, and saw a great marketing opportunity. With support from the Edmonton Community Loan Fund, he's out and selling the water-saving devices.

Janet Adeniken designs beautiful, flowing African-inspired women's clothing. She knew she could sell it. With help from the Loan Fund she started up her business, Sew Much Soul. Now she's sewing and selling her fashions and accessories for plus size women in a booming business.

The Loan Fund has helped a dozen entrepreneurs start new small businesses over the past couple of years. Banks and other lenders often balk at starting small businesses with nothing to secure their investments. But the Loan Fund, using money raised in the community, can provide loans up to \$5,000. A recent grant from the Muttart Foundation boosted the fund's capital to \$100,000, and the eventual target is \$1 million, says staffer Anna Bubel. New community investors are always welcome.

The Loan Fund is a non-profit organization and along with the money it gives the new business people technical assistance, or mentoring programs to boost their projects along. It was started and is run by volunteers, and the organization is always seeking volunteer support with committees and projects. Contact the Loan Fund at 944-1558.



Janet Adeniken's fashions will be her rags to riches



# Our Voice the spare change magazine



## MEGAN FOLLOWS The "Anne-girls" grows up

NOVEMBER 1997 Vol. 4 No. 11  
**SOLD BY DONATION**  
Please buy only from badged vendors.  
Your vendor pays 80¢ per copy.



**Publishers:**  
Bissell Centre, Edmonton  
Edmonton City Centre Church  
Corporation, Edmonton

**Managing Editor and Design:**  
Keith Wiley  
**Poetry editor:** Michael Walters  
**Proofreader:** Gail Campos

Bissell Centre  
10527-96 Street • Edmonton •  
T5H 2H6  
Phone: 428-4001 • Fax: 429-7908  
Paper Distribution •  
Wendy McPherson

Paper Distribution Calgary •  
Rick Whittaker

**EMAIL:**  
sparechg@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

**OUR VOICE** is published to  
provide an income opportunity  
for economically marginalized  
people in our society while com-  
municating about their issues to  
the public.

#### ADVERTISING

For advertising rates and informa-  
tion, please contact **OUR VOICE**  
at

Edmonton 421-7966  
ask for Moe

**NOVEMBER 1997**  
Vol. 4 No. 11

**OUR VOICE** welcomes your contri-  
bution. Letters sent to the editor are  
assumed to be for publication, unless  
otherwise indicated. **OUR VOICE**  
welcomes written submissions, particu-  
larly those on IBM or Mac compatible  
computer disk, cartoons, photographs  
or artwork. **OUR VOICE** cannot  
accept responsibility for any submis-  
sion. No part of this newspaper may  
be reproduced in any form without  
written permission from **OUR**  
**VOICE**.

Opinions expressed in this newspaper  
are not necessarily those of **OUR**  
**VOICE**, the editors or publishers.

**EMAIL:** sparechg@freenet.edmon-  
ton.ab.ca

## Talking Back

**Call us. Leave your comment:**  
**1-888-428-4001 Toll Free**

### Compliments on the Cara King feature story

I am just reading the issue with the feature story about why  
did Cara King die? by Michael Walters. It's the most impressive  
article I've seen in a paper in along time. I know the dailies don't  
have time to write in depth. The style and the way he wrote and  
covered the whole issue is a very, very impressive article. I just  
thought I'd mention it.

**Reader in Calgary**

### Fear of poverty, or talking about poverty

I am reading an interview with Pat Capone who wrote  
**Dispatches from the Poverty Line** a book that deals with  
her experience with poverty after she lost her job due to cut-  
backs. This is in Ontario with Mike Harris' government. Why do  
we find poverty so shameful? We can talk forever about unem-  
ployment or corporate downsizing, but when someone men-  
tions not being able to pay your rent a barrier immediately goes  
up.

Pat Capone says: "I think it has to do with the coldness of the  
right-wing takeover in North America. The feeling is if you're

poor it must be your fault, because if it's not your fault it could  
happen to me, and I don't want to think about that."

I think that's probably true here in Alberta as well. Too many  
people don't want to be faced with the reality of other people's  
homelessness or poverty. They don't want to think about that,  
because if they do, it mirrors back at them that this same sort of  
thing could happen to them.

**Reader in Edmonton**

### Too much violence against women

I have seen too many women beaten up by guys on the  
street. They end up with black eyes and taken to hospital where  
the police are informed that they must do something about this  
so that it won't happen again. There is a women in hospital  
right now who is not doing too good. She is over 45 and was  
beaten by her husband. I think they should put these people  
away for good. I was riding around and I saw girls hurt so bad,  
with black eyes from their boyfriends or other guys. There is too  
much that is frightening and women take so much abuse.

We are all human beings and we should respect each other.

I think women should think a little better and walk with  
another person when they go out somewhere. Men should think  
about what is going on in their lives, too and not be over power-  
ing the women they are with.

**Name withheld.**

#### CORRECTION

**In the October 1997 issue it was incorrectly reported that our  
profiled vendor, Sundance, is receiving AISH, or Assured Income  
Support for the Handicapped. He is not and Our Voice regrets  
any inconvenience this may have caused.**

#### Our Voice Christmas Cards

**Our Voice** is seeking art work for Christmas cards to be  
sold on the street by **Our Voice** vendors. For more informa-  
tion contact editor Keith Wiley at (1-888)-428-4001.

### Our Voice seeks new home and partner in Calgary

**W**ith the sudden closing of the Connection  
Housing agency in Calgary, **Our Voice** is look-  
ing for a new home and partner in the city.

**Our Voice** has been sold by vendors on Calgary streets  
since 1994. "I want to keep selling **Our Voice**," says long-  
time Kensington area vendor, Rob Champion. "People  
come up and ask me for **Our Voice**, particularly," he says.

**Our Voice** was not greatly affected by the closure of  
Connection Housing. **Our Voice** only joined with  
Connection Housing in July of this year. The closing of  
the agency because of financial problems did not affect  
**Our Voice** directly.

Former Connection Housing employee Rick Whittaker  
has continued working with vendors and distributing the  
magazine to them. However, Rick needs an office to  
work from. **Our Voice** also needs a Calgary partner orga-  
nization to assist in the work with vendors.

Suggestions or offers are very welcome or more infor-  
mation, call **Our Voice** managing editor Keith Wiley at 1-  
888-428-4001 (toll free).

## Art Exhibit

**December 18-21**  
**Old Strathcona Arts Barn**

*Profiling the creative work  
of artists on low incomes.*

**Call for ART for the Exhibit**  
Low-income artists who create in any form may partic-  
ipate. For more information contact Raj Danna  
Edmonton Strathcona Constituency office: 414-0702.





New Democrat leader Pam Barrett introduced "Marie" and her struggle to survive.

## A case of poverty and desperation Grandmother forced to prostitution to survive

"Sometimes I get myself ready and I can't bring myself to go, I can't go out the door." Marie, not her real name, can't face going out on the street as a prostitute, something desperation forces her to do as often as three times a week.

Marie spoke to journalists at a press conference called by New Democrat leader Pam Barrett recently. Barrett was making the point that welfare allowances and restrictions are forcing some women to turn to prostitution to live. "Women give up on welfare, and go out on the street," Barrett said. Or others who are still on welfare, are forced to go and "turn tricks at the end of the month."

Marie spoke alongside Barrett, on the condition her identity be kept secret. She's in her forties, has two children, and a grandchild. She's a grandmother who works some nights as a prostitute. And she's scared. "I don't want to be the next victim, the next body found," she said.

Marie explained that an abused childhood, and turning to the street as a teenager has left her unable to work in a regular job. She has had several jobs, including one at the University, but her mental health has made it impossible to work steadily. Going through counselling and therapy she said she was finding a new life. "I've been a

street person for over 20 years. This is the first time I've lived rather than just exist." She explained that prescribed medication has been changed three times, and she felt she was healing. "I was being the person I wanted to be, I was making choices."

But a welfare allowance of only \$465 a month isn't enough for her to live on. The rent on her apartment alone is \$385 a month and Marie doesn't want to give it up. "I have to survive. This is the first time in my life I've had any stability." The welfare isn't enough, but Marie is afraid of losing even that. "I can't afford to lose it, I'd be out on the streets full-time."

"Every month I am forced to choose whether I pay my rent or eat," Marie emphasized. She cannot move because social assistance no longer covers moving expenses or telephone hook-ups.

Barrett points out that Marie would be entitled to \$818 per month if she were on the Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) program. "At least AISH meets the basic needs of those receiving it," she noted. "Punishing people for being poor is a shortsighted way to run a government," Barrett concluded.

"This is not an issue of prostitution," Barrett said. "It's an issue of real poverty and desperation."

Congratulations Grads 96/97

**Gold Star**  
promotions

Shirts • Jackets • Caps  
Calendars • Memo Pads  
Glassware • Safety Awards  
Pens • Lapel Pins  
Golf Accessories & More

**455-2277**

14710 - 119 Ave  
Fax: 447-2731

**Our warmest hello to all our brothers  
and sisters across the nation**

A message from Chief Luke Gull,  
Members & Elders of



**Weenusk  
First Nation**

Office Hours: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
P.O. Box 1 Peawanuck, ON P0L 2H0  
Phone (705) 473-2554 Fax (705) 473-2503

1/2 Price  
at  
1/2 Time!



Special  
3rd  
Saturday  
Every  
Month!

### 7 AFTERNOONS

- 40 Games & 3 Early Birds
- 2 Bonanzas & 1 Odd/Even • Loonie Pots, Crystal Ball & Satellite Bingo Game



### 7 EVENINGS

- 50 Games & 3 Early Birds
- 2 Bonanzas & 1 Odd/Even • Loonie Pots, Crystal Ball & Door Prizes
- Satellite Bingo Game

### EVERY TUESDAY

**1/2 PRICE SENIORS AFTERNOON & EVENING**

Crystal's Concession Has Great Coffee, Delicious Baked Goods And Regular Dinner Specials

**Crystal Bingo**

Capilano Mall 50 St. & 98 Ave  
INFO LINE: 461-1295

## One-Stop Earth and Environmental Consulting Services Worldwide

- Environmental Impact Assessments
- Environmental Audit
- Soil & Groundwater Remediation
- Waste Management
- Occupational Health & Safety
- Indoor Air
- Air Quality Assessments
- Geotechnical Engineering
- Soils & Materials Testing
- Environmental Site Assessments
- Contaminant Assessments
- Public Participation
- Hydrogeology
- Asbestos
- Radiochemical Assessment
- Analytical Chemistry
- Environmental Chemistry
- Materials Engineering



**AGRA**  
**Earth & Environmental**

### CALGARY

Phone: 248-4331

Fax: 248-2188

221 - 18 St. S.E.,  
Calgary, AB T2E 6J5

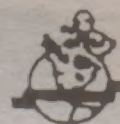
### EDMONTON

Phone: 436-2152

Fax: 435-8425

4810-93 Street,  
Edmonton, AB T6E 5M4

## MIDWEST DRILLING



Contract Diamond Drilling  
Site Investigation  
Soil Sampling

### Branches at

#### FLIN FLON

Phone:  
(204) 687-3483  
Fax:  
(204) 687-3483

#### THOMPSON

Phone:  
(204) 677-2930  
Fax:  
(204) 677-9852

#### YELLOWKNIFE

Phone:  
(403) 873-3358  
Fax:  
(403) 873-6803

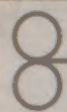
### Head Office

180 Cree Crescent, Winnipeg, MB R3S 3W1

**Phone (204) 885-7532**

Fax (204) 888-4767





## Custom Laminating Services


Custom Lamination of All Printed Media  
1.5 mil 3 mil 5 mil 10 mil Film  
FOAM CORE • 40" x 60" • PLAQUE MOUNTING  
No Minimum Charge

• Menus • Membership • Children's Art • Maps - Experts in Dissection  
• Report Covers • Cards • Newsprint • Lamination & Reconstruction  
• Flip Charts • Signage • Blueprints • of Oversize Maps  
**Laminating is Our Business / Our Only Business**  
Fax 462-0530 **Call 469-7890**

## METIS CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES SOCIETY

10437-123 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta T5N 1N8  
(403) 452-6100 Fax: 452-8944

## Maybe I can help. Chris Axworthy, MP

Saskatoon - Rosetown - Biggar  
 COMMUNITY OFFICE  
904E 22nd Street W  
Saskatoon S7M 0S1  
Ph: (306) 975-6555 or 1(888) 590-6555

## ROMYN - JANISSE & ASSOCIATES LTD. SUB-CONTRACT FRAMING

JOHN ROMYN

Box 150, St. Albert, Alberta T8N 1N2  
Phone: 459-2351 • Cell.: 940-5222



## K&T METAL INDUSTRIES LTD.

8802 -95 Street, Morinville  
PO Box 2339 Morinville, AB  
T0P 1P0

Phone: 939-4486  
Fax: 939-2687

## ALL-WORLD ROOFING & SIDING CONTRACTING ALBERTA LTD.

- REPAIRS
- NEW ROOFS
- INSURANCE CLAIMS
- RE-ROOFS
- CEDAR SHAKES
- FREE ESTIMATES

Painting - Texture - Built-up-Roofing

- Plus**
- All types of concrete work
  - Carpentry (framing, finishing, fencing)
  - Carpet or linoleum replacement
  - Windows

Ph: 483-0306 or 907-6845 or 481-2061

28 years in Alberta!

**L & T Mix**  
SAND AND GRAVEL LTD.

L & T Mix Sand & Gravel Ltd., 2nd Floor, 8020 - 50th St., Leduc, AB T9E 7G3  
Phone (403) 986-6721 After hours (403) 986-1890

## COMMENT

# Growth summit listens to persistent voices



**I**t appears that Premier Ralph Klein got more than he bargained for when he asked for input from "ordinary Albertans" for the Growth Summit on September 29 and 30.

Klein made it clear that while he invited everyone's opinion, he hoped the discussions would not be dominated by "those groups who are giving pressure to spend but are not necessarily revenue-producing". Representatives from the "revenue-generating" sectors of Business, Agriculture and Energy came to the Summit expecting to see the economic pie dished out in the form of sizable tax cuts and business subsidies. Members of the Social Economy and MASH (Municipalities, Academics, Schools and Hospitals) sectors had only meagre hopes of having their voices heard, voices that called for a recognition of human life as Alberta's greatest natural resource.

By the end of the Summit, however, "regulatory and tax issues" took a mere fourth place in terms of overall priorities for government spending, while "people development" and "health & quality of life" earned a surprising first and second place. The results of the discussions seemed to indicate that leaders from each of the six sectors represented (Business, Agriculture, Energy, MASH, Government and Social Economy) are indeed not so worried about dividing up the gravy of excess oil revenues and budget savings as they are about ensuring that a basic diet of meat and potatoes is available for Albertans.

How did such a shift occur in those few short days? It took the very patient, very steady voices of a few people at the Summit. These were people who had been known for their alternative views long before the meetings in the Shaw Conference Centre ever took place.

There was Betty Hewes, who has been known for her stand on social issues for as long as most of us can remember. With veteran wisdom, Betty's approach at the Summit was to find the common point of discussion on any issue. For example, Ms. Hewes coached her colleagues on the Social Economy platform, "Be sure to point out that children are in the context of families. - We can't let these people excuse their refusal to acknowledge children's

rights on the grounds that this will lead to the break-up of families."

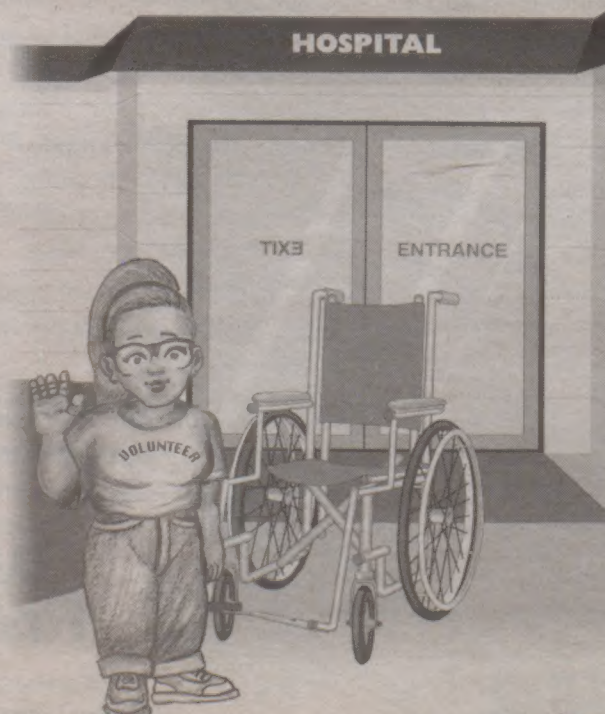
Another voice at the Summit was Gary McPherson, Chairperson of the Premier's Council on the Status of Persons with Disabilities. McPherson's views came out in particular contrast to several of the more strident Energy, Agriculture and Business voices which dominated the cross-sector "Orange" group of which he was a part. In a quiet, dignified way, McPherson repeated his message over and over: "People are the important thing here...quality of life is what we should be concerned about". After spending much of his own life in healthcare institutions, McPherson wanted to make it clear that health about much more than the healthcare system. "We have to realize that health is about things like social connectedness and income equity. How can we expect people to take charge of their lives when they aren't even given the proper tools?"

"I don't know what you're talking about, Gary", replied Mayor Bill Smith's, who was also in the Orange group. "We've got a great healthcare system in this province". And Charlotte Robb, Co-Chair of Alberta Economic Development Authority, didn't seem to do much better at grasping McPherson's point. "You can't tell me there isn't one person on this planet who couldn't lead a healthy lifestyle if they chose to," was her assertion. "Social and economic development are two different issues."

But McPherson had another voice on his side in the Orange group. "You don't have to look far in Edmonton's inner city to see that some people don't have much choice about their health status," came a firm rebuttal from Dr. Gerry Predy, Medical Officer of Health for the Capital Health Region. "It's clear that basic employment is the issue here: people need an income in order to maintain their health."

Patient, persistent voices: these were what seemed to shift the overall outcome of Alberta's Growth Summit. Behind these voices there were the voices of the thousands of 'ordinary' Albertans who know that life is perhaps about much more than the revenue they generate.

**MaryJane Buchanan**  
MaryJane is an Edmonton writer and activist.

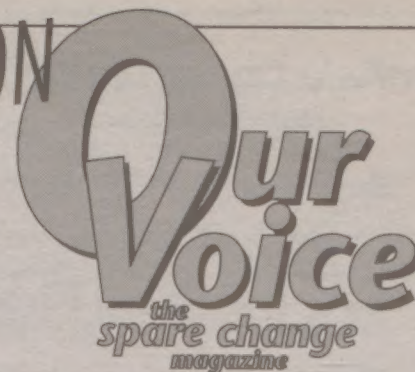


Andy PHILLIPOTT 97



# Taking it to the streets: Poverty Eradication Day

Editorial OPINION

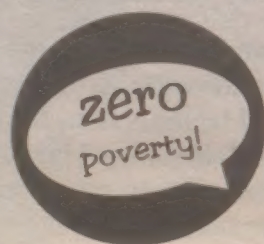


**M**idge Cuthill and a group of activists who call themselves Poverty in Action are campaigning on the streets now. They are reaching out to Albertans, one by one, to let them know that poverty is a serious problem in our province.

It's not easy, as she points out. "People don't want to look at the issue, at how it might affect them," says Cuthill.

They launched their campaign on October 17, the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. By chance, federal finance minister Paul Martin was in town that day and the Poverty in Action group went and spoke to him. But even more than reaching one minister, Cuthill is concerned about reaching a wide range of Canadians to put poverty on the public agenda.

Cuthill's point about awareness is a good one. Poverty can be very hidden in Canada, hidden in fine-looking homes, with nicely trimmed lawns. Wanting to buy some used furniture recently a friend called an ad and went to a home in an affluent suburb. A husband, wife and child, apparently fine, were now living in a very bare house. They took the children's clothes out of the dresser, they were selling. "Is there anything else you were looking for?" they asked. They clearly needed the money. Hidden, quiet desperation. Poverty.



## Zero Poverty

**D**o some people just have to be poor? No, says the National Anti-Poverty Organization, NAPO. "Zero poverty" is the NAPO slogan on the little button Cuthill and friends are handing out with their leaflet. They can have "zero deficits" and "zero tolerance" the NAPO literature points out, why not "zero poverty". "We cannot tolerate poverty as a fact of life anymore. It affects everyone. Everyone needs to care that poverty is there and that we can take part in making it stop."

Keith Wiley

## "Absolute" poverty growing in Alberta

**A**bsolute poverty is a growing fact in Alberta, and poor people are becoming even poorer, according to a recent analysis from the Edmonton Social Planning Council. In 1993, about 5,000 families in Edmonton were subsisting on income levels less than half of the Statistics Canada Low Income Cut-off (LICO, StatsCan determines the LICO by taking percentage of their income that the average family spends on the basics of food, shelter and clothing, and adding 20 percent to it). An income level of less than half of LICO fits within even the most stringent poverty lines.

By 1995, the number of Edmonton families who were "absolutely poor", at less than half of LICO, had risen to over 12,000. The total number of families below LICO remained relatively the same, around 18 per cent of families.

	1993	1995
Absolutely poor families	~5,000	~12,000
Unemployment Level	11.2%	8.9%
Alberta Social Assistance expenditures	\$834 million (93-94)	\$580 million (95-96)

The decreases in social spending and unemployment would appear to indicate that poverty was decreasing. However, the exact opposite was true. Increased levels of employment are failing to have any significant impact on the numbers of people living in desperate poverty. Decreased social spending is resulting in a drastic increase in the number of people living in "absolute" poverty.

From First Reading, a publication of the Edmonton Social Planning Council.

## A national religion, a national bond

**A**s I was driving through the inner city only a day after this year's first fall of beautiful white snow, I spotted a group of young kids playing road hockey. It brought a smile to my face.

That time of the year had come upon us once again. It's hockey season here in Canada. With the fading of the colorful flowers and the falling of the leaves, millions of Canadians feel a strong sense of relief from the dull heat of our short summer.

It's a time when we all gather in our homes, in pubs, or wherever we can find a television set displaying the images and sounds of our country's oldest past-time. It's a time when the streets are filled with youngsters, wielding hockey sticks. Every rink is home to an intense and energetic game. Hockey is being watched and played from the time the sun comes up until well after it goes down.

You will likely find a larger number of devoted followers gathering religiously to watch Hockey Night in Canada every Saturday night than you will find the following morning in church.

Hockey is religion in this country. For the many who are so very much in love with the game, it provides a break from every day life. It gives people something to look forward to and something to talk about with others. If there wasn't hockey we may not have anything to talk about at all. It is a common bond in our society. It is a solace for many people.

But like many religions, the game of hockey has become tainted with the mighty greenback. To actually go to a game has become a luxury for the rich. The players are rich and of course the owners are rich. For a child to play in a competitive league with real coaching in hopes of one day making it to the N.H.L., that child's family must be relatively well off.

Still, there are many aspects of the game that have nothing to do with money or whether someone is rich or poor.

The actual existence of the game breaks down many barriers. Hockey is one of the few bridges between different communities. The game is something that plays no favourites. Whether someone is rich or poor, a girl or a boy, black or white, French or English, they can play and watch hockey. They can cheer whole heartedly for a favourite team.

A man with a suit, tie and briefcase, sitting beside a man with torn clothes and a plastic bag filled with empty pop cans on the bus, can talk about hockey and be equal and understand each other.

People in high rise office buildings, and people in inner city housing shelters are often talking about the same thing: hockey.

Children in three story suburban houses and children in tiny inner city apartments are playing the same game on their streets. Hockey.

In our society we are often prone to labeling each other. We are rich or we are poor. We are middle class or we are lazy bums. We are white people or we are native people. We are always different from someone else, or someone else is different from us. But in this case we can throw away all of those labels and there would be one label left over. We are hockey fans.

Maybe it's just the cold weather, but that sounds extraordinarily beautiful to me to tell the truth.

Michael Walters



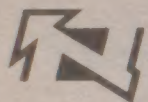
### Penhale Construction Ltd.

53537 Range Road 272  
Ardrossan, Alberta T0B 0E0

#### Sand, Gravel & Site Work

Richard Penhale  
Res: 998-2884  
Mob: 455-4284  
Pager: 1671-6277

John Penhale  
Res: 998-4770  
Mob: 498-2402  
Pager: 1671-6321



NORWESCO INDUSTRIES (1983) LTD.

6908L - 6th Street SE  
Calgary, Alberta T2H 2K4

Bus. 253-3883  
Res 249-7090  
Fax 1-403-259-5823



### Specialty Packaging

- Corrugated Boxes
- Packaging supplies
- Folding Cartons
- Set-up Boxes

8818 - 24 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T6P 1L2  
Telephone (403) 449-1622 Fax (403) 449-1723



### Montana Tribal Administration

P.O. Box 70  
Hobbema, Alberta  
T0C 1N0

Phone: 585 3744  
Edmonton: 429 4065  
Fax: 585 3264

## Stony Motor Inn

- 48 Air Conditioned Rooms
- Licensed Restaurant • Lounge • Banquet Facilities

4620 - 48 Street, Stony Plain, AB.

**963-3444**

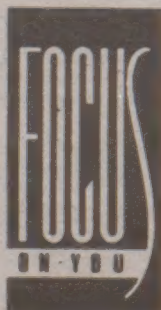
ALBERTA FEDERATION OF LABOUR

**JOBS  
JUSTICE  
EQUALITY**



DISCOVER WHY  
"FOCUS" IS DIFFERENT  
FROM THE REST  
COMPLETE SKIN AND BODY CARE

Facials,  
manicures,  
pedicures,  
all artificial nails,  
waxing,  
electrolysis,  
makeup  
application



Deep herbal and  
glycolic peels, &  
non-surgical  
face-lifts, cellulite  
& body  
treatments,  
body massage

Gift Certificates Available

**THE FACIAL  
SPECIALISTS**  
**424-2487**  
11311-104 Avenue

# The "A grows Megan stars in C

## Interview by Allison Kydd

It's a natural thing for us to associate an actor with a favourite role, so I'll wager I'm not alone if I think of Anne Shirley from *Anne of Green Gables* when I hear the name Megan Follows or, vice versa, if I see the face of Megan Follows in my mind when I read about Anne Shirley. However, as her daughter, Lyla (five and a half), and her son, Russell (three), know, their "mommy", Megan Follows, has played many different roles. She's well-known and sought-after in the United States as well as in Canada; in fact, she's lived in Los Angeles since 1983, though she still calls herself a Canadian.

Besides her television and film roles, Megan does live theatre. She says she's "equally comfortable ...

or uncomfortable ... in theatre and film," and tends to add that she thinks it's "crucial [for an actor] to never get too comfortable." It is theatre and role of Desdemona in the Citadel production of *Othello* which brings Follows to Edmonton.

Follows seems an inspired choice for the role of gentle and devoted Desdemona. It isn't the first she's played a Shakespearean role well suited to delicate features and girlish appearance. She's played Juliet in Stratford's 1992 production of *Romeo and Juliet* and in the subsequent Los Angeles production of the same play. Some of the other classic roles she's played are Kate in *She Stoops to Conquer*, Nora in *A Doll's House* and Sonya in Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya*.

Recalling that Desdemona's story is that of a beautiful young wife whose husband is first persuaded to betray him and then revenges his honour with a terrifying swiftness, I wondered whether Follows feels there's any danger she might be type-cast as a victim. Follows doesn't think so. She reminds me that Desdemona, though a victim in one sense, is also a heroine because of her determination. She has the courage to love and marry a man who is a popular military hero, but also an outsider because of his race. As Follows puts it, "she makes a stand against society ...". Furthermore, Desdemona stands by her love to the very end.

Follows also reminded me that Anne Shirley from the *Green Gables* series isn't a mere sweet, malleable girl. She's a manipulator, a tom boy, and stubborn to the nth degree. And Follows has played other remarkable, trend-setting women. In the Canadian movie, *Hockey Night* (1984), she's a teenager playing goal on a boys' hockey team; as Isabelle in *A Doll's House* (Atlantic Theatre Festival, 1996), she realizes she has been petted and protected all her life and has the courage to change. In *Under the Piano* (C.B.C., January, 1996), she plays an autistic child and young woman, who, nonetheless, makes a life for herself. Of the latter role, Follows says she enjoyed it particularly because "a complete character." She also tells how she was complimented for the authenticity of her performance by the mother of an autistic child.

Still, her role as the red-headed and eccentric





# Anne-girl Follows up Othello



**Megan Follows won two Gemini awards for her famous role as Anne.**

heroine of the C.B.C. productions of *Anne of Green Gables* and its sequel (*Anne of Avonlea*) will always have a special place in the hearts of not just thousands, but millions, of viewers, and not only in Canada. Follows is good natured about the way she's so often identified with "Anne". She also says she's glad the role worked well, since so many remember her for it. Obviously, the judges for the Gemini award agree that her performance was memorable. She was given two Gemini's for it, one for the original production and one for the sequel.

In a way, her being linked with the role is a surprise, for Follows, unlike generations of girls and young women, wasn't "brought up on Lucy Maud Montgomery's Anne books." The character was also a challenge for her to relate to. Montgomery's Anne is an orphan; Follows has parents, sisters and a brother, and she's following in the footsteps of her parents, Ted Follows and Dawn Greenhalgh, by choosing an acting career, so she doesn't feel isolated and misunderstood.

Still, Follows has the lovely purity of feature and sparkling manner which fans of Anne immediately recognize. Furthermore, when she began to study the role of Anne, Follows could relate to the lively imagination, to the adventurousness and to Anne's need for self esteem, which is like every child's need.

Of her own childhood in the film and theatre - she started when she was nine - Follows admits she used to find it somewhat hard at the end of a production, because she would get attached to the people with

whom she'd been working. They would have become like family. It helped, however, that she always had her own family to go back to. Now that she has children herself - Lyla is going to school in Edmonton; Russell spends his time with the nanny when his mother is working - they too keep her grounded.

A single parent since her separation from her husband, Follows can't imagine not bringing her children with her, for, she says, "wherever I go, we go together." Right now, the family can afford to be "somewhat nomadic." When the children are older, everything will be "more complex," but one senses they'll find creative ways to have it all. As to whether she'd like her children to

**Cast as Juliet in two major stage productions, Follows is becoming a Shakespearean veteran.**

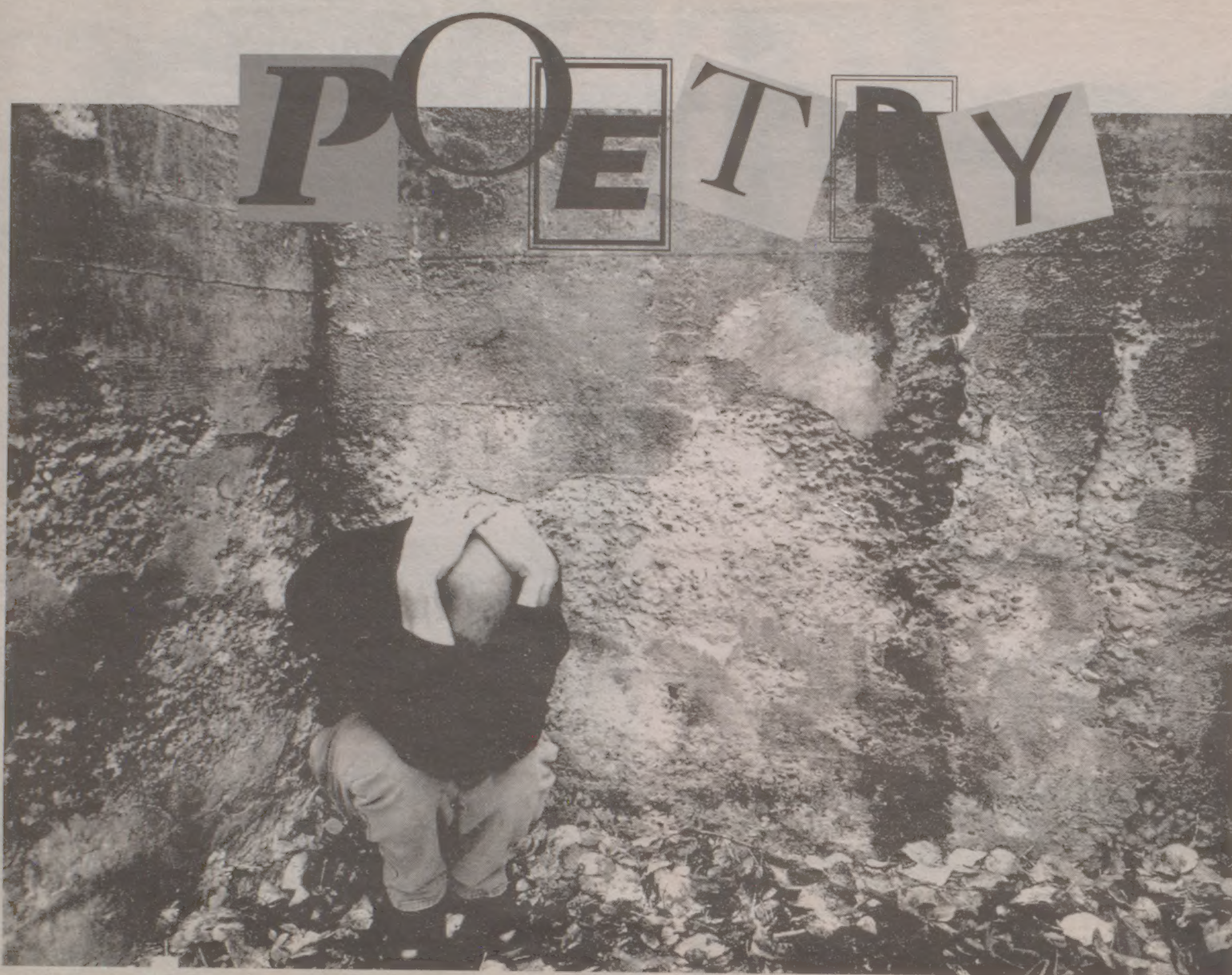


follow her career example, Follows says "it'd be hypocritical to say 'no'," though she'll encourage them to get a well-rounded education as well. This is important because, in spite of her love of her work, she admits that the "only thing that's consistent [about it] is the inconsistency."

By having her children near, Follows maintains her strong relationship with them while not sacrificing her career. She talks passionately about the importance of "honouring and supporting children" and of "cherishing childhood." Childhood "should be an amazing time... children should know that they are totally loved... unconditionally," she says.

It seems typical of Megan Follows that she's ambitious for her career, wants "lots more roles, big roles, starring roles." She also wants to do more comedy and says it's "probably even a greater thing to make people laugh than to make people cry." After *Othello* finishes in Edmonton, it goes to Ottawa, for this is a co-production. And Megan Follows has important plans immediately after that - "to have Christmas with the kids," in Toronto, with her whole family.





"Self-portrait" PHOTO by Pieter de Vos Jr.

## Prayer

I grow weary of dreams  
filled with blood, bile, and bodily fluids,  
of midnight erections.

I'm tired of nocturnal violence.  
I wish to awaken  
afresh  
in a state of grace.

Away from this subconscious crib  
where I play  
murderer, rapist  
and priest.

by Pieter De Vos Jr.

## Rose

Red petals unfurl  
in the desert  
parched of life  
as the resentful sun  
glares widely  
on rodents and cacti  
and vultures  
and footprints  
in the sand  
leading nowhere;

In the Void's darkness  
secretly blooms  
a wild rose  
redly petalling  
in the wake  
of warm winds  
swirling;

Blooms secret in the night  
sprout  
through the green vines  
pushing life  
into fullness,  
into dawn,  
into day,  
as man views the Rose-Rising.

by Tom Hind.

### Philp & Company

BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS  
An Association of Independent Law Practices

JIM D. BRAIDEN  
B.A., LL.B.

10374 - 172 STREET  
EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA, T5S 1G9  
TELEPHONE (403) 484-8708 FAX (403) 484-8894 RES (403) 432-0551

8 Our Voice

### KAPOWN CENTRE

#### Rehabilitation & Treatment Centre

Chemical dependency services directed toward  
people 16 years of age and older.

- Minimum 6 week residential program. •
- Continuous intake. • 24-hour in-patient care. •

Kapown Centre Box 40  
Grouard, Alberta T0G 1C0  
(403) 751-3921 FAX: 751-3831



PHONE 469-5029



### Tiger Lily Insulation Ltd.

6114 DAVIES ROAD  
EDMONTON, ALBERTA  
T6E 4M9





## The decline of literary lightfingering

Shoplifters, it seems, have developed a taste for literature. Last year alone over 32.5 million pounds worth of books were stolen from British stores. "We clearly have some of the best-educated thieves in the world," commented one expert proudly. Not, however, as well-educated as American Cirrus Guffage, who spent three years stealing Gibbon's *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* from a local bookseller. Mr Guttage, 56, a professor in Chicago, began his theft in late 1994 when he spotted the six volumes of the book at the back of the shop. "I knew immediately I had to have them," he explained. "The problem was, they were very expensive, so I decided to steal them." Since the volumes were too bulky to conceal beneath his coat, however, he decided to remove them page by page, visiting the shop every day for the next three years and ripping out two pages at a time. All went well until June 1997 when, only three pages from the end, he was discovered by the shop owner and duly arrested. "I've not had much luck," opined a despondent Professor Guttage. "I spent 24 years stealing an Encyclopaedia Britannica, and got caught just as I started on the Zs."

## Illegally parked and duly ticketed

Traffic Warden alert! In Hackney, mother-of-three Jennifer Gayle was wheel-clamped because her car-park ticket was upside down. "They're all Nazis," she fumed.

Equally outraged was Swede Gunner Sjostrom, who received fines totalling 200 pounds for kneeling by the roadside. Mr Sjostrom, 42, of Stockholm, was kneeling in that particular place because he'd got his hand stuck down a drain. "I'd dropped my keys down it and was trying to reach them," he explained. "Then this traffic warden told me I'd have to move. I said, if I can't f\*\*king move! But she said, 'You're illegally parked!' and stuck a ticket on my back." Over the next hour Mr Sjostrom received a further three tickets, as well as a flyer offering a free introductory car wax from a local garage, before he was eventually freed by firemen. "They apologised for taking so long," he recalled, "but their engine had been clamped at the other end of town."

## Sharp-eyed owl stops all cheating

It's been a strange week for exam students. In Sheffield, two cleaners had to act as exam supervisors due to staff shortages at the school where they worked. Still more unlikely were events in Thailand, where examinees at a Bangkok technical college were supervised by an owl. Trouble started when the teacher who was supposed to be supervising the exam failed to show up. "We didn't have anyone else available," explained the college principal, "so someone suggested using Pongo the Owl, who they keep as a pet in the maths department. It seemed rather a good idea." Pongo was duly brought to the exam hall, where students were informed that if they cheated the strigiform supervisor would fly at them and peck out their eyes. The threat obviously worked, for the exam passed off, without a hitch. Only when examiners came to mark the papers, however, and discovered that no one had written anything, did it emerge that so frightened had they been of Pongo that not only had the students not dared to cheat but they hadn't even picked up their pens. "Next time we'll use something a little less threatening," opined the principal. "Like a mole."

## Protesting just a little too much

People have been protesting in very strange ways. In Greece, for example, a man covered Athens in posters of himself naked to complain about the town's bid for the 2004 Olympics. Equally bizarre were events in Poland, where a man blew himself up in protest at the colour of his neighbour's front door. Trouble started when Elias Wiedich, 43, of Lodz, painted his door pink, the only pink door in a street of blue ones. "Mr Vlya seemed to take it as a personal insult," explained Wiedich. Initially he complained with letters and phone calls. Then he began parading up and down in front of the door flagellating himself and crying "We want a blue one!". When this proved ineffective, he decided that the only thing would be to destroy the offending door, so he duly constructed a homemade bomb which, unfortunately, exploded as he was priming it, obliterating not merely the front door, but himself as well. "As a mark of respect I won't be painting the new front door pink," said a contrite Mr Wiedich. "It's going to be a Tuscan yellow instead."

Articles compiled by Paul Sussman in *The Big Issue*, London, England's street-sold magazine.

## THREADCO INC.

6835 Glenmore Trail S.E.

MAILING ADDRESS:

Site #1, Box 38, R.R. 5

Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2P 2G6

Bus: (403) 279-7858

Fax: (403) 279-2755

## Edmonton TRANSPORTATION

15th Floor, CENTURY PLACE

9803-102A AVENUE

EDMONTON, ALBERTA T5J 3A3

(403) 496-2812

Fax: (403) 496-2803

## B.S.L. MACHINE LTD.

10020 - 29th Avenue

Edmonton, Alberta

T6N 1A2

(403) 462-6520 FAX: (403) 450-9701

## Arico Instruments Ltd.

"Working for a better tomorrow"

9241 - 35 Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T6E 5Y1

process control specialists

## CALGARY METAL LTD. (1985) Recycling since 1918

3415 OGEN ROAD SE

CALGARY, ALBERTA

CANADA T2G 4N4

PHONE (403) 262-4542

FAX (403) 262-1114



An International Company

Well Service Ltd.

Calgary • Edmonton • Red Deer

## rotork actuation

Rotork Controls (Canada) Ltd.

#9, 820 - 28 Street N.E.

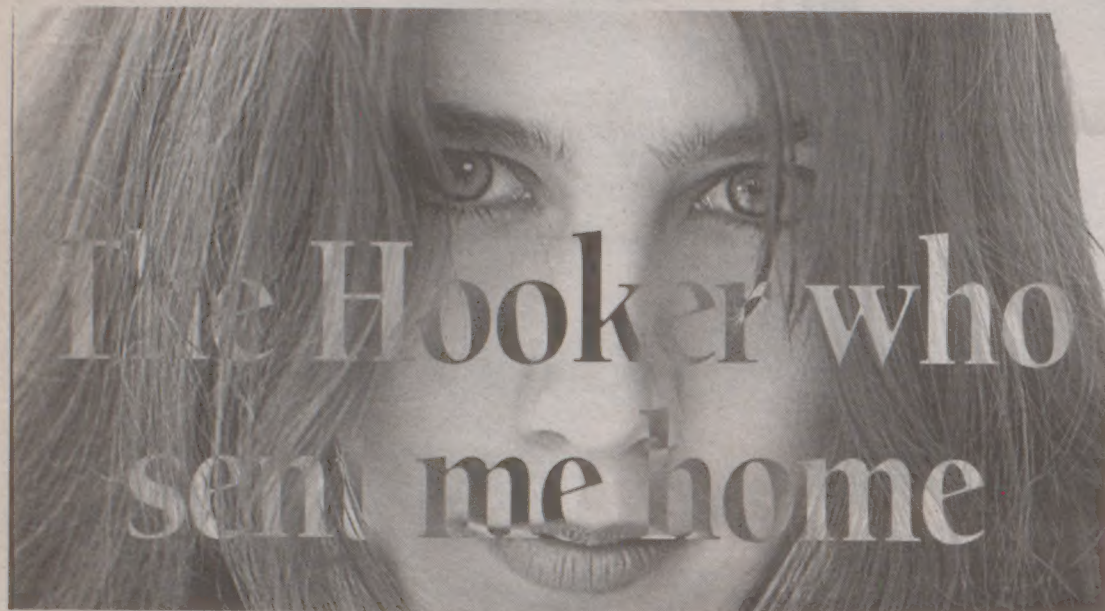
Calgary, Alberta T2A 6K1

Telephone: (403) 569-9455

Fax: (403) 569-9414



Thank you to the following businesses and organizations whose support helps publish this magazine.



It was a cold gray rainy dismal morning that only Vancouver could have. Margaret had been ill since our husbands left for the interior to sell vacuum cleaners. Margaret and Alex were our best friends. They had helped me through a bad situation when I lost my baby. Margaret had taken care of me in that big old damp house where the four of us lived in our separate apartments.

It was my turn now to take care of Margaret. She was about three months pregnant and threatening to abort. Margaret called me into her room that morning, she looked pale and sick. She was hemorrhaging badly and I had to get help for her. We decided to get to the hospital and away from the motel.

Margaret gave me the number of a friend of hers a "hooker" who's boyfriend had a truck. She said, "call them, they'll help us." And they did.

"We'll wait until dark," said Terry. "You pack everything in whatever boxes you can and I will haul your stuff to our garage. Then we can decide what to do after you get here."

I started to pack up all our stuff. I had a little apartment-sized washing machine that I packed with the few dishes, wrapped in the

six or so towels I had accumulated.

They arrived about two in the morning. Quietly we threw everything into the truck and carefully transported Margaret to the cab. I sat on the hooker's knee and we escaped from the motel to safety at their place.

The next day, after much discussion, they told me that the best thing for me would be to get on the train and go back to Edmonton. I was only nineteen, and had just lost my first child.

Terry took matters into her own hands and bought me a train ticket. She asked me what kind of sandwiches I'd like. She made me up some salmon sandwiches and packed them in a bag with three oranges, while I packed my ratty suitcase. Terry took me to the station and I was on my way home.

Margaret recovered and had a healthy baby girl. Our husbands didn't sell any vacuum cleaners. I got a job as soon as I could. I sent the money for the train ticket back to the hooker with a long thank you letter. She was an angel and I realized that God works in mysterious ways.

by AnnaMay Brown

**A. Capella Catering**  
12704 110 Avenue  
Edmonton AB  
T5M 2L7  
454 2642

**Alberta Traffic Supply Ltd.**  
7798 16 Street  
Edmonton AB  
T6P 1L9  
440 4114

**Alphacom Consultants Ltd.**  
10171 Saskatchewan Drive Suite 201  
Edmonton AB  
T6E 4R5  
439 3960

**Bob North Agencies Ltd.**  
135-53226 Range Rd 261  
Spruce Grove, AB  
T7Y 1A3  
419-2725

**Calmar Esso owned and operated by Arco Automotive Service Centre**  
5001-50 Avenue  
Calmar, AB  
T0C 0V0

**CFM Air Equipment**  
5834 Burbank Rd SE  
Calgary, AB  
T2H 1Z3  
252-1177

**Chief Automotive Distributors**  
4920 99 Street  
Edmonton AB  
T6E 3N6  
437 1030

**Clarke Transport**  
12555 62 Street  
Edmonton AB  
T5W 4W9  
471 6336

**Consolidated Rockingham Baliff Services**  
10909 Jasper Avenue  
Suite 320  
Edmonton AB  
T5J 3L9  
448 5833

**Eden's Funeral Home**  
966 Elm Street  
Pincher Creek AB  
T0K 1W0  
403 627 3131

**European Food Ltd.**  
10045-81 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB  
T6E 1W7  
433-0014

**GMA Properties Inc.**  
10222 140 Street  
Edmonton AB  
T5N 2L4  
448 0767

**Heuchert Electric Ltd.**  
PO Box 208  
St. Albert AB  
T8N 1N3  
458 1613

**JA Matheson Equities**  
11914 129 Avenue  
Edmonton AB  
T5E 0N3  
455 6688

**Lou Howell Bobcat Services**  
3208 104 Avenue  
Edmonton AB  
T5W 0A9  
474 0010

**Northern Alberta Prosthetic & Orthotic Services Ltd.**  
11024 127 Street  
Edmonton AB  
T5M 0T2  
452 9513

**Northern Transportation Co.**  
42003 MacKenzie Highway  
Hay River AB  
X0E 0R9  
403 874 5100

**Peekiskewtan "Lets Talk" Agency**  
Box 180  
Vabasca AB  
T0G 2K0  
403 332 4993

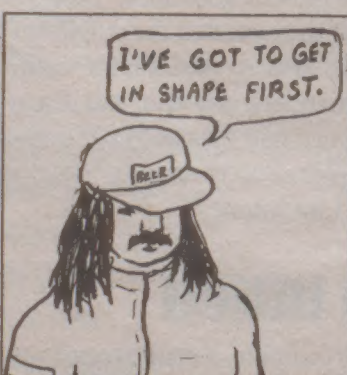
**RBC Dominion Securities**  
10155 102 Street Suite 2300 PO Box 14000  
Edmonton AB  
T5J 2P4  
944 8851

**Riverbend Registries**  
544 Riverbend Square  
Edmonton AB  
T6R 2E3  
437 7355

**Sedgewick Limited**  
10130 103 Street  
Edmonton AB  
T5J 3N9  
420 0777

**Wal-Mart Canada Ltd.**  
375 Bellrose Drive  
St. Albert AB  
T8N 3K8  
458 1629

SOUPLINE BOB



## INDEPENDENT BUSINESS PERSON



Vendors buy their copies of the paper to sell and pay up to 60 cents apiece. (If they buy 50 or more they get a discount). Many vendors start with some copies on credit, and build up to a sizable inventory, that they sell.

**OurVoice**  
the spare change magazine



## SUCKER CREEK FIRST NATION

### DRUG & ALCOHOL PREVENTION PROGRAM

Be aware of the harm  
that alcohol and  
drugs can do!

For further  
information call:

**Patsy Calliou**  
**(403) 523-4390**

The youth are our future  
so let's teach them to  
follow traditional  
native values and  
not drugs and alcohol.

## KELPAR ENVIRONMENTAL INC.

*Clean-Up for oil & chemical spills, On-site  
Disposal, On-site Bio-Remediation Pits*  
*"For the children's sake, STOP the abuse."*  
24 HOUR SERVICE  
**Kelli Peppar 484-7804 Fax 484-7967**



**Edmonton's Finest Authentic  
Vietnamese Cuisine**



**DOWNTOWN**  
**424-3430**

10023 - 107 Ave.  
Edm., AB  
Fax 425-6449

**SOUTHSIDE**  
**434-4448**

7909-104 St.  
Edm., AB  
Fax 434-5971

## Nigro & Company

*Barristers and Solicitors and Notaries Public*

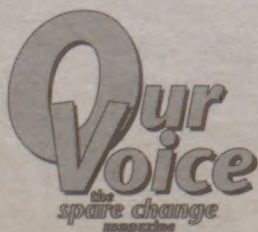
282 Kaska Road  
Sherwood Park, Alberta  
T5A 4G7

Telephone (403) 467-9559  
(403) 464-4666  
Fax (403) 467-0720

## The staff & management of ENOCH CREE NATIONS

wish to salute the  
efforts of

Keep up the  
good work!



## IN MEMORIAM

# Paul Kacan

**O**ur Voice vendor Paul Kacan was beaten to death in his home in mid-September of this year. Some of his room-mates, his "family", have been charged with his murder.

Paul's is a tragic story, from the little we at **Our Voice** know of it. We published a vendor profile of Paul in April of 1996, three months after he signed on with **Our Voice**. A few months later, however, Paul was banned from being a vendor and there was little **Our Voice** could do to help him.

When Paul first came to us, he was very timid and in very vulnerable circumstances. However his focus remained on the future and on eradicating the disastrous conditions of his life. It turned out Paul had been selling **Our Voice** long before he signed on.

When Paul was growing up, Paul told us, his family moved around a great deal. He was born in Edmonton, but by the time he was three, his salesman father had the family on the go. Paul's school years were quite difficult. He found it hard to interact with other kids, and felt as though he was being mistreated as the new kid. Usually his only response came in the form of violence. He had to fight back.

"I guess I learned to stick up for myself, and be an individual, but the bad thing was that I got pretty good at being alone." As the time passed, Paul grew tired of his solitude, and as all people do in life, he sought some form of acceptance.

Eventually Paul would stop fighting back.

Paul had a variety of jobs he worked prior to **Our Voice**. But he was unable to hold down a regular job, because of his mental health. Paul was locked in an abusive relationship with the couple he lived with. He suffered extreme levels of abuse, both physical and emotional.

Paul sold the paper as a registered vendor for six or seven months, until his situation became too desperate. He was forced to step outside of the code of conduct for selling **Our Voice**. He started showing up at the office to pick up papers with black eyes and bruises on his face. The once shy, kind young man had been replaced with a man filled with intensified fear and confusion. He no longer hung around to drink coffee and talk like he had in the beginning. He got his papers and left, as though there wasn't enough time. He was running an unwinnable race. If he returned home with less money than his room-mates wanted he was beaten. He was being pimped by the people who would end up charged with murdering him. Paul spoke about his problems without disclosing any concrete information about his abusers. He was referred to a social worker who was in a better position to help him, but the bottom line was that Paul refused to go to the police and name the people who were destroying his life. There was little anyone could do. He wanted the people who were harming him

to be his family. He wanted them to accept him and love him.

Earlier in his life Paul had spent much of his free time building model airplanes and rockets. He became very diligent with his hobby. He insisted that everything be

done as perfectly as he thought possible. "I've learned not to leave failures unattended. If something doesn't work out, I'll always go back and make it better. I think I can apply this to my life," he said.

As Paul's beatings became more frequent so did the complaints against him from **Our Voice** customers. He was selling the paper in unauthorized locations. He was insisting that people pay two dollars for the paper when the paper is sold only for voluntary donations. He was pushy and obnoxious with the public. He had no choice.

**Our Voice** distribution people realized this as they fielded the many complaints from the public about Paul. Usually a vendor acting so far outside of the code of conduct will be suspended. Often, however,

the rules are bent because of the difficult realities of an individual situation. In Paul's case, a suspension would have virtually cut off his only income. And possibly led to worse abuse. Paul's suspension could only be stayed for so long however, because **Our Voice** exists for the benefit of many. The code of conduct is in place to protect the image and reputation of the paper so other vendors can sell proudly on the street. Paul was prohibited from buying **Our Voice** magazines and from selling it.

**Our Voice** was not able to prevent Paul from selling, however. He obtained papers "on the black market" and kept on selling until his death. It was the only way he was able to bring any money back to

his "home" to, he believed, ensure his safety. It was the only way he could become part of the family that he always wanted. He was convinced that his abusers loved him and it was his fault they were abusing him. Most often they were able to convince him that he deserved it. So he tried harder. Paul had talked of his hopes of finishing high school and going on to University to work toward a degree in science. "I would love to work for the space program," he said. "The concept of space is such an eye opener for me. It's so unlimited and never ends."

Paul's life proved to be very limited. He was only thirty-one when he was beaten to death. He loved the people who are charged with killing him and he believed that if he tried hard enough they would love him too. He didn't realize that would never happen and that he was being taken advantage of. Paul endured many long, painful days, in a very short and tragic life.

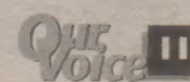
**By Michael Walters**

**Michael formerly worked as the Our Voice distribution person, and worked with Paul Kacan.**



Paul Kacan PHOTO Cal Kennedy

## VENDOR Profile





# EDMONTON FOOD BANK AIRLIFT



PHOTOS:  
John Zapantis



**Our Voice** photographer and writer John Zapantis went up with the Edmonton Food Bank Airlift on a sunny Sunday in September. The Airlift is in its sixth year of raising food for the Food Bank. Participants donate 35 pounds of food and get a high-flying ride over the city. The Airlift is a contribution to the Food bank from the Centennial Flight Centre and its staff. Local Air Cadets help with loading the donations on to the Food Bank truck.

John had a thrilling flight: "my adrenaline was rising on the emotional tacometer," he wrote. "I aimed my camera through the plane's window, envisioning that I was some astronaut aboard the space shuttle, shooting pictures of the earth in orbit. Whenever our plane turned on an incline, it once again kicked in my imagination with just the right dramatic effect, as our Food Bank Airlift circled the city on our Mission to Feed The Hungry."



**Talking  
Back**

**TELL US WHAT YOU THINK. TALKING BACK!**

Call and leave your comment: 1-888-428-4001 Toll Free